



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Resolution of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lamoine, Maine

in Opposition to the November Ballot Question seeking to Approve LD974, *An Act to Decrease the Automobile Excise Tax and promote Energy Efficiency*

Whereas, if approved this referendum question implementing LD 974, *An Act to Decrease the Automobile Excise Tax and Promote Energy Efficiency*, would cut over \$80 million of revenue each year to Maine's towns and cities that is used to plow, treat, construct, repair, and maintain over 13,000 miles of local roads and over 800 local bridges; and

Whereas, the motor vehicle excise tax revenue is vital to the maintenance of our local roads for both public safety and welfare and economic development; and

Whereas, this referendum question would cut an estimated \$105,000 in revenue to the Town of Lamoine which is used to repair and maintain 15.46 miles of our local roads; and

Whereas, approval of this question would likely lead to the deterioration of our local road system or increases to our municipal property tax rate; and

Whereas, this effort to reduce excise tax would allow significant benefits to those owners of newer and specialized motor vehicles while providing no tax benefits to those owners of motor vehicles that are older than five (5) years which represent the majority or registered motor vehicles;

Whereas, this effort is presented as a "green" initiative while at the same time it seriously impairs the capacity of the towns and cities throughout Maine to construct and maintain road systems that appropriately protect and preserve the quality of Maine waters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lamoine hereby expresses:

- a. its grave concern about the impact that, the referendum question implementing LD 974 if approved, will have on our town's ability to adequately maintain and improve our local roads without a significant increase in our local property taxes; and

- b. Its strong opposition to this referendum question to implement LD 974 because it is not in the best interests of the residents of the Town of Lamoine or the citizens of Maine
- c. To work to defeat the measure by informing local voters of the real and significant negative impacts that it will have on our town's ability to maintain and repair our roads without significant property tax increases; and
- d. To authorize municipal staff to participate in such activities that are deemed necessary and appropriate in the furtherance of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

The Board of Selectpersons urges all citizens to become fully informed on this proposal prior to the November election by becoming familiar with the language of the proposal and reviewing materials provided by those supporting and opposing this measure.

Signed on October 1, 2009 by:

/s/ S. Josephine Cooper, Chairman

/s/ Cynthia Donaldson

/s/ Gary McFarland

/s/ Kermit Theall